DYNAMITE®

SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

Garth Ennis Darick Robertson

The BOYS

FIVE

CHERRY part three

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YOU HAVE AN UNUSUAL ACCENT, ARE YOU ENGLISH?

MM...?

OH. NO, NO, I'M SCOTTISH.

OH, I'M SORRY...

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE NOTHIN' TO BE SORRY ABOUT...

I THOUGHT THAT WAS KIND OF A SORE POINT. YOU KNOW, BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH.

AW, NOT REALLY.

ONLY REAL HEAD-THE-BALLS WORRY ABOUT THAT SORTA THING.

HMH.

"HEAD-THE-BALLS."

ARE YOU ON VACATION?

NOT YOUR KIND OF THING?

UH, NO, ACTUALLY, I THINK I MIGHT ENJOY IT QUITE A LOT. IT'S JUST... SOME OF THE PEOPLE...

NO, I'M... I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I'M OVER HERE ABOUT A JOB. ONLY I DON'T KNOW IF I'M GONNA TAKE IT.

AN' ALSO, I'VE REALLY GOT NOTHIN' ELSE TO GO BACK TO--BUT IF I DID TAKE THE JOB, I'D WANNA BE SURE THAT WASN'T THE ONLY REASON I WAS DOIN' IT, D'YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

KIND OF.

OH AYE?

I... DID SOME THINGS.

TO GET A THING I REALLY WANTED.

I KNOW I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT WHAT I DID AND I'M REALLY, REALLY NOT SURE ABOUT WHAT I'VE GOT, BUT...I DON'T KNOW THAT I WANT TO JUST GIVE UP AND GO HOME, YOU KNOW? I CAN'T DECIDE IF IT'S WORTH STAYING TO FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS ALL WORTH IT.

YOU DID THE PENANCE SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE THE SIN A TRY, EH?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT.

AW, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS PLACE?

I'M TELLIN' YOU, IF I DO STAY IT'LL BE BECAUSE OF THIS CITY. PLACES LIKE THIS, LIKE CENTRAL PARK AN' ALL.

D'YOU KNOW I WAS READIN' A LOTTA THIS PLACE IS ACTUALLY ARTIFICIAL? ALL THE WEE STREAMS AN' SO ON, THERE'S THESE WEE TAPS HIDDEN AROUND THE PLACE SO THE PARKIE CAN TURN THEM ON AN' OFF?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

OH, IT'S HUGHIE.

I'M ANNIE, HUGHIE.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

SO I GUESS I OUGHT TO GET GOING.

IT'S BEEN NICE TALKING TO YOU, HUGHIE.

AYE, I'VE GOTTA GET GOIN' MYSELF. MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE SOME-TIME, EH?

MAYBE SO. ARE YOU GOING TO COME BACK AND LOOK FOR THE WEE TAPS?

AYE, SO I CAN TURN THE WEE STREAMS ON AN' OFF. YOU GAME?

ESSEX HOUSE

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

HELLO? WE ALL BEEN STRUCK DUMB OR SOMETHING? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

OH, *FUCK--!*

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT! BIG GAME, YOU MOTHER-FUCKER, HOW LONG HAS THIS PIECE OF SHIT BEEN SUCKING YOUR DICK?

HEY, FUCK YOU, DENZEL...

WHAT THE FUCK DOES THAT MEAN? DOGKNOTT, EXPLAIN TO ME EXACTLY WHAT THAT MEANS!

SHOUT OUT, WAIT A MINUTE--

NO, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE MEANS BY--

BIG GAME

JETSTREAK'S *RIGHT*, SHOUT OUT! I MEAN LOOK AT THIS, THIS IS--

OH, WELL JETSTREAK'S GOT TO BE RIGHT, HASN'T HE? AFTER ALL, HERE'S ONE OF YOU AND YOUR BUDDY JETSTREAK GETTING A DOUBLE HAND JOB OFF THAT *SKANK...*

JESUS CHRIST, WHO THE FUCK *SENT US THESE--?*

THAT'S NOT THE POINT--

WHACK JOB

GUNPOWDER

JETSTREAK

IT'S EXACTLY THE FUCKING POINT!

YOU...SLUT. YOU FUCKING TWO-FACED, LYING BACK-STABBING FAGGOT *COCKSUCKER...*

SHOUT OUT, KNOCK IT OFF. WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS, OKAY?

BULLSHIT.

DOGKNOTT

BLARNE

OH, DON'T *SULK...*

I'M GLAD YOU BOYS THINK WE CAN TALK THIS OVER. HOW ABOUT THAT ONE, YOU THINK WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT?

JESUS!!!

BLARNEY COCK! WHACK JOB! *GET IN HERE!*

HUH...?

I CAN'T FUCKING *BELIEVE* YOU TWO ASS-HOLES--!

LIVE FEED

WHY, WH-- OH, HOLY *FUCK...!*

THIS IS WHERE YOU GOT ALL THAT SHIT, ISN'T IT? THIS IS THAT APPEAR-ANCE YOU MADE AT SAINT JUDE'S!

POPCLAW

UNTOUCHER

BUT HOW-- WHERE DID-- HOW DID THESE--

RIGHT NOW, WHO GIVES A FUCK! *YOU STOLE PAINKILLERS FROM A FUCKING CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL!*

ON WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A P.R. OPPORTUNITY--I *TOLD YOU* WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LET THIS MICK ON THE GOD-DAMN TEAM...

HEY, I WONDER WOULD YEH AWAY AN' FUCK YERSELF, YEH FUCKIN' COON YEH!

WILL YOU ALL JUST SHUT UP FOR A SECOND? I MEAN LOOK AT THIS: THIS IS A PICTURE OF ONE OF *OUR TEAM* STEAL-ING MEDICATION THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO TO *DYING CHILDREN...*

SAY THAT AGAIN, I *DARE YOU* TO SAY THAT AGAIN--

SO WHAT? HERE'S ONE OF *THE LEADER OF OUR TEAM* WITH A BIG FUCKIN' BLACK *COCK* UP HIS ARSE!

HHH...

ENCORE, ENCORE...!

WAIT-WAIT-WAIT, THEY HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE BAD NEWS YET.

WAS THERE A NOTE ALONG WITH THESE? ANYTHING?

OH, JESUS.

"SOMEONE GETS THROWN TO THE WOLVES. I DECIDE TO-MORROW.

"OR YOU DECIDE TODAY."

WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS, DICKWIPE, THAT THEY'RE GOING TO EXPOSE ONE OF US TO THE MEDIA. IF WE DON'T CHOOSE WHO GETS FUCKED-- THEY WILL.

OH, FUCK ME...!

POPCLAW. IT OUGHT TO BE POP-CLAW.

POPCLA

WHY THE FUCK?!

HULLO?

CUTTING YOURSELF, THAT'S NOTHING. I MEAN IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT PUBLICLY IT'S *SURVIVABLE...*

EAT MY SNATCH, YOU--

YOU'RE FORGETTING ALL THIS NICE WIDE-ANGLE STUFF OF HER JUDGING THE RUG-MUNCHING COMPETITION...

HUGHIE, MATE.

TURN IT DOWN A BIT THERE, WILL YOU, FRENCHIE?

FUCK YOU, GUNPOWDER. YOU'RE THE SICK ASSHOLE LICKING HIS OWN SHIT OFF HIS GUN.

HULLO THERE, EVERYONE.

PETIT HUGHIE! FORMIDABLE!

I THOUGHT I'D...JUST COME ON BACK, YOU KNOW?

WHY, YOU BEEN SOMEWHERE?

GAVE THE BOY THE WEEKEND OFF, DIDN'T I? YOU ALL RIGHT, HUGHIE, YOU SEE A BIT OF THE CITY THEN?

AYE, I DID, AYE. IT'S REALLY BRILLIANT.

SOUNDS LIKE EVERYTHIN'S, UH, COMIN' TOGETHER QUITE NICELY...

AAOW!

CERTAINLY IS, MATE. THANKS IN NO SMALL PART TO ALL THAT HARD WORK YOU PUT IN.

YOU HAD LUNCH YET?

NO...

GOT THE BEST BURGER IN THE CITY RIGHT OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

YOU VICIOUS LITTLE CUNT, YOU NEARLY TOOK MY FUCKING EYE OUT!

OKAY, EVERYONE, JUST CALM DOWN...

KEEP YER FUCKIN' HANDS TO YERSELF, HOMEBOY!

BACK IN AN HOUR OR SO, ALL RIGHT? GIMME A SHOUT WHEN THEY DECIDE ON THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB.

HEY, BUTCHER, MAN.

STOP IT! STOP IT, ALL OF YOU! JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP FOR A SECOND!

BEST BURGER IN THE CITY'S THE BURGER JOINT, LOBBY OF THE PARKER MERIDIAN.

JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW.

WE'VE GOTTA USE OUR HEADS! WE'VE GOTTA THINK, I MEAN LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US HERE!

YEAH, CHEERS, MATE.

NICE ONE.

I MEAN JESUS FUCKING CHRIST, WHO THE FUCK IS DOING THIS TO US?

WHAT D'YOU THINK?

FUCKIN' *MAGIC...*

MADISON SQUARE PARK

TOLD YOU.

SO WHAT YOU BEEN DOIN' THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, HUGHIE? BEEN SEEIN' THE SIGHTS?

OH, AYE.

PickUp Here

THAT AN' SITTIN' AROUND TERRIFIED I'M GONNA WRENCH MY NOB OFF HAVIN' A WANK...

IF THAT WAS POSSIBLE I WOULD'VE DONE IT YEARS AGO, MATE.

I'M SORRY, HUGHIE. I WAS A RIGHT ARSE-HOLE.

I THOUGHT I WAS DOIN' YOU A FAVOUR, BUT ALL I DID WAS FREAK YOU OUT AN' PISS YOU OFF. I'M SORRY.

JUST... DON'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN, RIGHT?

NEVER.

JUST *TELL ME* FIRST.

RIGHT.

SO... TEENAGE KIX SOUND LIKE THEY'RE HAVIN' A BAD DAY, EH?

HEH.

FUCK 'EM.

Pick Up Here

SO, D'YOU LIKE IT HERE? ENJOYIN' LIFE AMONG THE SEPTICS?

EH?

SEPTIC TANK: YANK.

NO, I DO LIKE IT, AYE. IT'S A BIT MAD AT FIRST, BUT YOU GET USED TO IT-- IT'S LIKE EVERY-THING YOU SAW ON T.V. OR IN A FILM, ALL COMIN' TRUE AT ONCE.

DO YOU NOT LIKE IT, THEN? DO AMERI-CANS JUST WIND YOU UP?

ARE YOU JOKIN'?

I *LOVE* THIS COUNTRY. YOU CAN GET A HUNDRED DIFFERENT SORTS OF DONUTS OR ANY OTHER OLD BOLLOCKS YOU DON'T NEED, TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY. AN' THEY'RE ALL SO FUCKIN' *STUPID*, HUGHIE.

THEY'RE ALL SO SCARED OF LOSIN' WHATEVER LITTLE FORTUNE IT IS THEY THINK THEY'VE GOT, THEY NEVER DREAM OF HAVIN' A LOOK OVER THEIR SHOULDERS. YOU'RE CAREFUL ABOUT IT, YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH PRACTICALLY ANYTHING.

IT'S LIKE BACK HOME TIMES A THOUSAND.

AN' NEW YORK'S LIKE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY TIMES A MILLION.

YOU THINK SO?

I KNOW SO. I'VE BEEN HERE NEARLY TWENTY YEARS, MATE.

YOU WAIT, YOU'LL SEE.

AYE...LOOK, I STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED IF I'M STAYIN' FOR GOOD, ALL RIGHT? I MEAN I CAME BACK BECAUSE--BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE THE REST OF IT, ALL THE SUPE STUFF YOU WERE TELLIN' US ABOUT...

BUT I'M SORRY, I STILL HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND...

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, HUGHIE.

NO MORE SURPRISES, RIGHT? NO MORE OF THAT SORTA SHIT. I'LL SHOW YOU THE ROPES, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, THEN YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

GIMME A MINUTE HERE, WILL YOU?

HELLO...

HEY.

ALL RIGHT, MATE?

IT'S SHOUT OUT.

LIVE

...AND I AM G--

I AM A GAY SUPER-HUMAN.

IT'S TAKEN A LOT OF SOUL-SEARCHING, IT'S BEEN A DIFFICULT ROAD TO TRAVEL. I KNOW I'VE CAUSED A LOT OF PEOPLE A LOT OF PAIN, AND, AND I WANT TO ASK FOR THEIR FORGIVENESS. IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I CAN ASK ANYONE TO TRUST ME AGAIN.

I'VE GIVEN THIS A LOT OF THOUGHT AND... I'M GOING TO...I'M TAKING A HIATUS FROM, FROM TEENAGE KIX. I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR FOR THEM TO BEAR A BURDEN THAT IS MINE TO CARRY ALONE.

BUT I WANT TO-- TO SAY JUST HOW MUCH THEIR-- ***SUPPORT*** HAS MEANT TO ME AT THIS ***DIFFICULT TIME...***

LIVE

HARD NOT TO.

YEAH. BLACK PLUS GAY PLUS HUMBLE PIE, EQUALS NO ONE'S SAYING SHIT ABOUT THIS ONE.

I TAKE IT WE CAN ALL SEE WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE...?

I SEE.

AND THAT'S THE ABSOLUTE LIMIT OF THE SEARING INSIGHT ON OFFER TODAY, IS IT?

HUH?

COME AGAIN?

WHERE'S THAT LITTLE SHIT WHO MAKES THE MARTINIS...?

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS HALF-ASSED SNOW JOB BY TEEN-AGE KIX. I'M TALKING ABOUT WHO'S BEHIND WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM.

BECAUSE FROM WHERE I'M SITTING, IT'S GOT **HIS** NAME WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.

...NO.

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OVER AND DONE WITH...

NO, NO, I MEAN AFTER THE MALLORY THING THERE'S NO WAY--

YOU THOUGHT HE WAS JUST GOING TO QUIT, DID YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M SORRY, I'M OUT OF THE LOOP HERE. WAS THIS BEFORE MY TIME?

EXCUSE ME...?

EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE?

UM...

ALL I WANTED TO SAY WAS, WELL, SHOULDN'T WE DO SOMETHING TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR SHOUT OUT? I MEAN YOU KNOW, JUST TO LET HIM AND THE REST OF TEENAGE KIX KNOW WE'RE THINKING OF THEM?

I THOUGHT, UH...MAYBE IF WE BEGAN WITH A PRAYER, AND WE INVITED THEM...TO...

OH YES, STARLIGHT. THAT REMINDS ME.

MEMO FROM VOUGHT AMERICAN. NEW COSTUME CONCEPT FOR YOU, THEY WANT SOMETHING A BIT MORE PHOTO-GENIC.

MORE OR LESS--

LIKE THIS.

GET THE IDEA?

THIS IS WHO WE THINK IT IS. HE'S NOT GOING TO GO AWAY, HE'S NOT GOING TO GIVE UP. SHOUT OUT WAS JUST HIS WAY OF REMINDING US OF THAT.

SO FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS, BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO BE A BITCH OF A RIDE.

BUT--

BUT WHO IS IT?

LOOK... IT HAD TO BE *SOME-ONE...*

BIG GAME

SHOUT OUT

POPCLAW

WHACK JOB

GUNPOWDER

JETSTREAK

DOGKNOTT

BLARNEY COCK

FUCK OFF.

SHOUT OUT--

FUCK. *OFF.*

GUNPOWDER

JETSTREAK

MY MOM WAS WATCHING THAT SHIT. MY SISTER *AND* HER HUSBAND. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH BECAUSE OF THIS?

YEH DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME THAT BLACKS AN' QUEERS DON'T GET ON, DO YEH?

BLARNEY COCK, ONE MORE FUCKING WORD OUT OF--

BLARNEY

OKAY, OKAY... *EASY...*

IT'S ONLY GOING TO BE FOR A FEW MONTHS. YOU CAN COME BACK. YOU'VE DONE A LOT OF THINKING, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE NOW, YOU'RE READY TO TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD'S PREMIER TEEN SUPER-TEAM AGAIN--YADDA YADDA YADDA.

YEAH, I FUCKING GET IT, OKAY?

UM... DID ANY-ONE ELSE SEE THIS?

SEE WHAT?

THIS E-MAIL, THIS NEW E-MAIL RIGHT HERE...

WHO'S IT FROM?

I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE ADDRESS, BUT IT--

LIVE FEED

IT SAYS THEY KNOW WHO DID THIS TO US.

HERE'S FRENCHIE NOW.

NO, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT HAD TO BE SHOUT OUT...

HEY, FRENCHIE.

LAIT DE LA MERE!

BECAUSE HE'S BLACK?

WELL YEAH, THAT DOESN'T HURT. BUT WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA THINK ABOUT, IS WHO CAN DO THE MOST DAMAGE TO THE TEAM IF THEY GO DOWN...

CAN'T BE POPCLAW. YOU CAN'T DUMP THE ONE BIRD IN A GROUP OF EIGHT. CAN'T BE GUNPOWDER, OR BANG GOES THE N.R.A. SPONSORSHIP.

CAN'T BE JETSTREAK, 'CAUSE THAT STUPID SLAG THAT WAS WANKIN' OFF HIM AN' BIG GAME COMES FROM ***SERIOUS*** MONEY: ONE WHIFF OF SCANDAL AN' SHE'LL FUCKIN' BURY 'EM ALL IN LEGAL SHIT.

AW MAN, THIS IS ***REPULSIVE...*** CAN'T YOU POLICE UP ALL THE GODDAMN PIZZA BOXES AN' SODA CUPS BEFORE YOU BRING THIS THING BACK IN?

N'IMPORTE QUOI.

CAN'T BE WHACK JOB OR THE BLARNEY COCK, 'CAUSE THEY'VE BEEN MATES FOR DONKEY'S YEARS. ONE GOES THEY BOTH GO, AN' THEN YOU'VE LOST A QUARTER OF THE TEAM.

WON'T BE DOGKNOTT, BECAUSE...WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHO DOES A BETTER JOB OF SUCKIN' BIG GAME'S COCK, I SUPPOSE...

BIG GAME?

WELL THERE'S NO WAY HE'S GONNA FALL ON HIS SWORD, HE'S THE BOSS. EVEN IF HE WANTED TO, THE OTHERS'D BE INSANE TO LET HIM GO.

THERE'S ALWAYS ONE ALPHA DOG HOLDIN' THESE PACKS OF TWATS TOGETHER. THEY KNOW IT, TOO.

THEY ALL KNOW WHICH SIDE THEIR BREAD'S BUTTERED ON.

SNFF SNFF

RIGHT, I'LL SEE YOU LOT TO-MORROW--

ARRH!

TERROR?

ARRH! ARRH! ARRH! ARRH!

COME ON, MATE, KNOCK IT ON THE HEAD...!

ARRH! ARRH! ARRH! ARRH!

ARRH! ARRH! ARRH!

TERROR, MATE, WHAT THE BLOODY HELL ARE YOU--

US.

OH,
FOR FUCK'S
SAKE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WEREN'T EXPECTING US? MM?

HEH.

DID YOU THINK YOU COULD HIDE FROM US? YOU BLACKMAIL US, YOU TRY TO DESTROY US AS A TEAM, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE BALLS TO *FACE US*, DO YOU?

HEH HEH HEH.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU PEOPLE ARE OR WHY YOU DECIDED TO FUCK WITH US, BUT THIS ENDS RIGHT HERE.

WE'RE *TEENAGE KIX.* YOU GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, YOU BE SURE AND REMEMBER THAT NAME.

HEH...

HEH! HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!

'CAUSE NOW IT'S TIME FOR

ALL RIGHT, WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU LAUGHING AT, YOU STUPID SON OF A BITCH?!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

OH, GOD ALMIGHTY. HMH.

ALL RIGHT, BOYS.

LET'S GIVE 'EM A *FUCKIN' SPANKIN'*.

NEXT: AND I ALWAYS WANTED A LITTLE BROTHER